

For Information Contact Public Affairs WYN HORNBUCKLE Telephone: (602) 514-7625 Cell: (602) 525-2681

GLENDALE MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

PHOENIX – Donald K. Forbes, 41, of Glendale, Ariz., was sentenced here Monday to 240 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Susan R. Bolton. Forbes pleaded guilty to Distribution of Child Pornography on November 30, 2006.

Forbes pleaded guilty to count three of an indictment charging him with four counts of knowingly distributing and/or receiving child pornography that had been shipped and transported in interstate commerce by any means, including computer. According to the plea agreement, Forbes was part of a peer-to-peer group called "Kiddypics and Kiddyvids" that routinely searched for, downloaded or distributed child pornography to themselves and others across the internet. On February 28, 2006, an undercover agent of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) entered the site and found images of child pornography that the defendant knowingly made available from the computer at his place of employment. The agent downloaded from the defendant's computer several images of minor girls posing nude in sexually explicit positions. A forensic search of the computers used by the defendant revealed several thousand images of child pornography including some of minor girls in bondage. The defendant admitted to agents that he had a large collection of child pornography images which included images of children under the age of 12.

Judge Bolton, in sentencing Forbes to the maximum sentence allowed by law, found that his possession of thousand of images and hundreds of videos represented countless numbers of innocent victims. Although Forbes claimed he had never harmed a child, the judge found he had certainly distributed images that showed others hurting the innocent. As in most federal sentences, the defendant is not eligible for any early release until he has served a minimum of 85 percent of his sentence.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The prosecution was handled by Vincent Q. Kirby, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-267-PHX-SRB RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-043(Forbes)

###